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Congress of the United States  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 13, 1982

General Rinaldo Bignone  
President  
Republic of Argentina  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue the release of PEN prisoners that started last year. It is my understanding that a well-known case, that of Gustavo Westerkamp, is close to a successful resolution, and I commend your government for taking steps towards his release.

I would respectfully urge you to personally investigate the disappearance of four individuals and offer any information about their possible whereabouts to their families. Mauricio Fabian Weinstein, disappeared from his home in Buenos Aires on April 18, 1978. There is some indication that he may be in jail #9 in La Plata. Two other disappeared people are Marcelo and Maria Gabriela Juarez, who were kidnapped by government forces on April 12th, 1978. Gustavo's I.D. number is 6,176,221. Maria's number is 7,135,693. Finally, Robert Ricardo Van Gelderen also disappeared from Buenos Aires. He is 30 years old, and the OAS has inquired about his case.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Don Bonker  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Human Rights and  
International Organizations

cc: Secretary George Schultz  
Assistant Secretary Elliott Abrams  
Ambassador Harry W. Shlaudeman  
Ambassador Takacs

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